Short answers

Introduction

Definition

Short answers are brief responses to a variety of closed questions.

"Do you like chocolate?" "Yes, I do."

Construction

'to be'	Other verbs
'Yes' + subject + 'to be'	'Yes' + subject + 'to do'
Is she French?	Does she work in a bank?
Yes, she is.	Yes, she does.
'No' + subject + 'to be' + 'not'	'No' + subject + 'to do' + 'not'
-	-
'not'	'not'

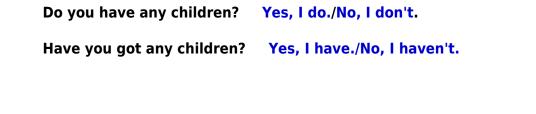
Note that

1. In affirmative forms, we don't use contractions: Yes, I'm.

2. The correct forms for 'have' and 'have got' are:







3. Remember to use 'to do' with main verbs:



Uses

We use them in conversation in different tenses. Short answers are more polite than 'Yes' or 'No' alone.

"Does she work in a bank?" "No." [too short and direct] "No, she doesn't". [more polite]

Sometimes, we add more information:

"Does she work in a bank?" "No, she's in advertising."/"No, she doesn't. She's in advertising." [these are better]

Examples



"Are you tired?" "No, I'm not. Are you?" "Yes, I am! Let's take a break!"



"Is it raining again?" "Yes, it is. But it's nice and warm."

See all other tenses and modal verbs for more information and examples.



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